

SOCIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEER

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Sections or subsections highlighted in gray indicate topics discussed in length by stakeholder group and those of higher interest from the public.

Section A. DRAWINGS & ALLOCATION OF LICENSES

General Overview of Drawings & Allocations

Current Status

- Drawings are conducted independently and individuals can submit an application for each season and are eligible for the first drawing. One exception would be if an individual successfully draws a Special Buck License (East River and West River) those individuals cannot submit an application for the first draw for the respective season.
- There is no limitation on the total number of licenses any one person can have in a given year. Seasons with limited numbers of licenses, an individual cannot be drawn for more than 5 total licenses through the first three drawings. Thereafter, licenses become available on a first-come first-serve basis.
- Current limited draw seasons include East River (including ER Special Buck), West River (including WR Special Buck), Black Hills, Muzzleloader (any deer licenses), Refuge, and Custer State Park.
- Seasons with unlimited licenses include Archery, Youth, and Muzzleloader (antlerless licenses).
- Special Buck licenses numbers are the greater of either applying a 4% allocation to the previous year licenses for East River and West River deer seasons to the number of licenses which include an any deer tag or a minimum of 500 licenses. Nonresident licenses are not available for the East River season.

Public Suggestions

Drawing Structure – Public Suggestions

- All Firearm and Muzzleloader seasons in one drawing system with application deadlines and drawings held at the same time
- West River, East River, and Black Hills as a first draw
- No change to current seasons system – retain the multiple seasons available and opportunity to apply for all

Figure A1. 2014 License Allocation Survey

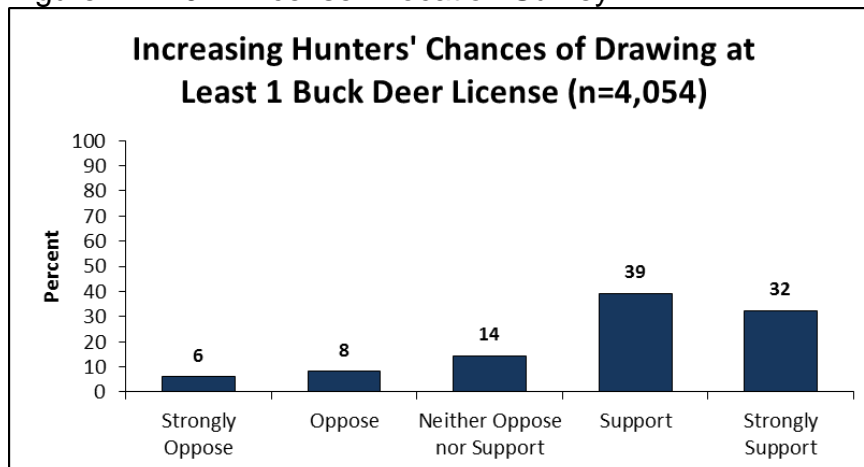


Figure A2. 2014 License Allocation Survey

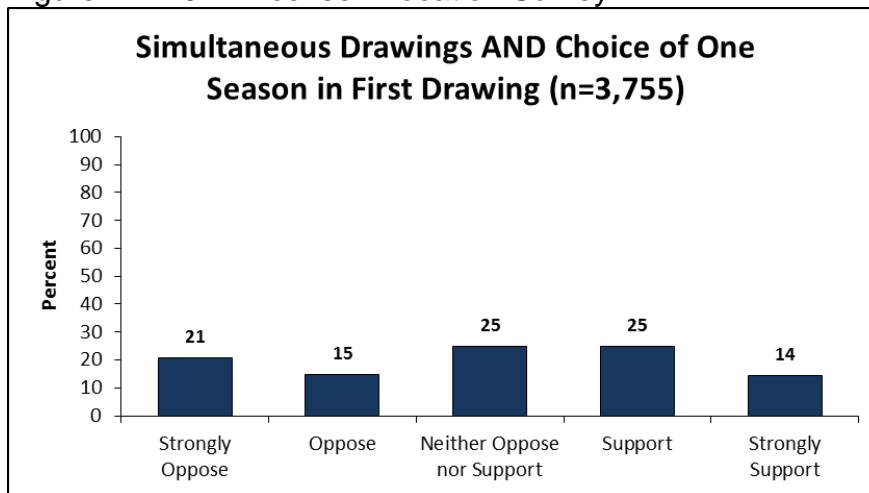


Figure A3. 2014 License Allocation Survey

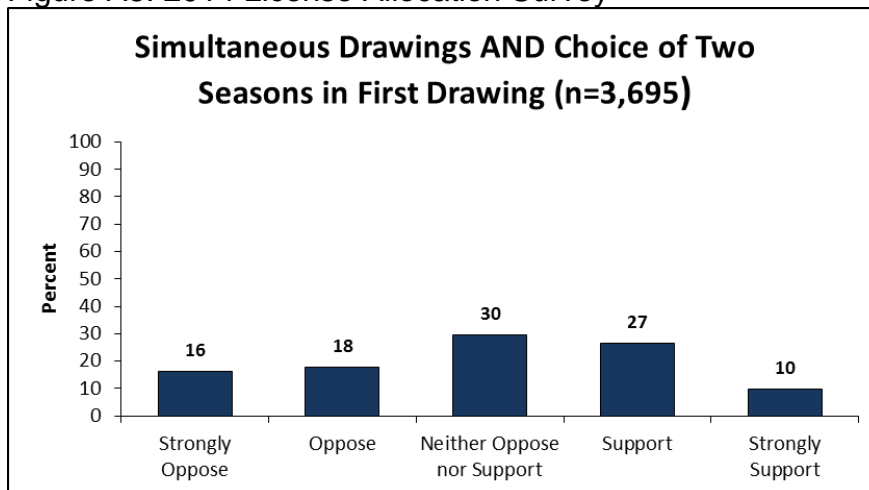
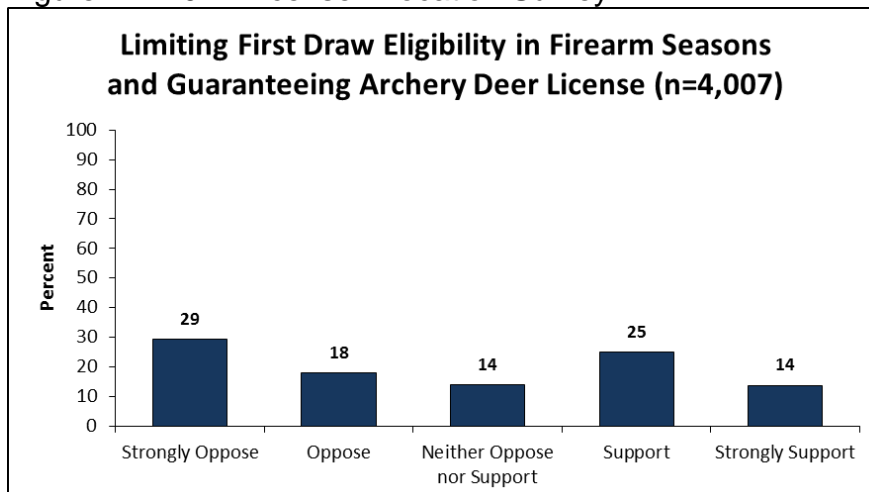


Figure A4. 2014 License Allocation Survey



License Allocations- Public Suggestions

- Maximum number of firearm and muzzleloader buck or any deer licenses for residents allowed per year is 2 and 1 archery for a total of 3
- Maximum of 2-3 buck licenses per year for all seasons
- Get one buck license per year and use weapon of choice

Figure A5. 2010 East/West River Deer Hunter Survey

Number of Types of Deer Licenses	East/West River Deer Hunters (2010)	
	Number	Percent
1	1,627	55.9%
2	737	25.3%
3	315	10.8%
4	149	5.1%
5	61	2.1%
6	17	0.6%
7	3	0.1%
8	1	<0.1%
Total	2,910	100%
Mean License Types	1.75	
95% C.I.	1.71 – 1.78	

Figure A6. 2010 East/West River Deer Hunter Survey. East/West River deer hunters' rating of the fairness of the current statewide allocation of "preferred" deer licenses and attitude towards changing the current system.

Attitude (scale)	Number	Percent
<i>How fair or unfair do you think the current statewide allocation of "preferred" deer license is?</i>		
Very Unfair (-3)	289	10.2%
Moderately Unfair (-2)	319	11.3%
Slightly Unfair (-1)	430	15.2%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	1,006	35.6%
Slightly Fair (+1)	148	5.2%
Moderately Fair (+2)	333	11.8%
Very Fair (+3)	300	10.6%
Total	2,825	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	-0.8	-0.14 – -0.01
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
UNFAIR	1,038	36.7%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	1,006	35.6%
FAIR	781	27.6%
Attitude (scale)	Number	Percent
<i>How strongly would you favor or oppose a system that would increase hunters' chances of getting at least one "preferred" deer license per year?</i>		
Strongly Oppose (-3)	97	3.4%
Moderately Oppose (-2)	89	3.2%
Slightly Oppose (-1)	93	3.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	868	30.8%
Slightly Favor (+1)	511	18.1%
Moderately Favor (+2)	625	22.2%
Strongly Favor (+3)	538	19.1%
Total	2,821	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	1.00	0.94 – 1.05
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
OPPOSE	279	9.9%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	868	30.8%
FAVOR	1,674	59.3%

Figure A7. 2014 License Allocation Survey

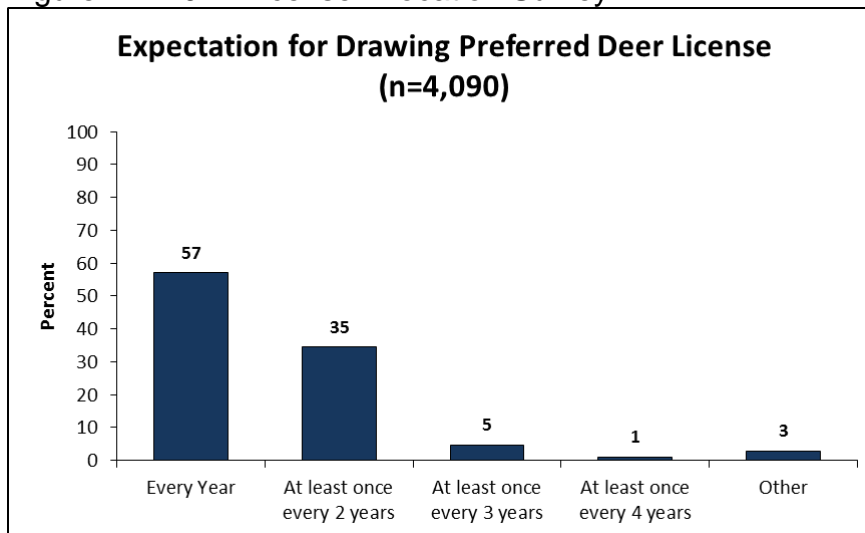


Figure A8. 2014 License Allocation Survey

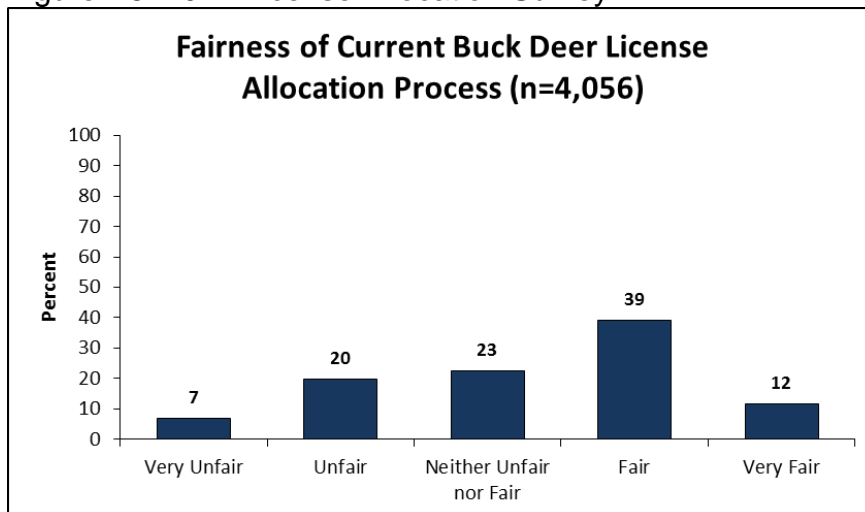


Figure A9. 2014 License Allocation Survey

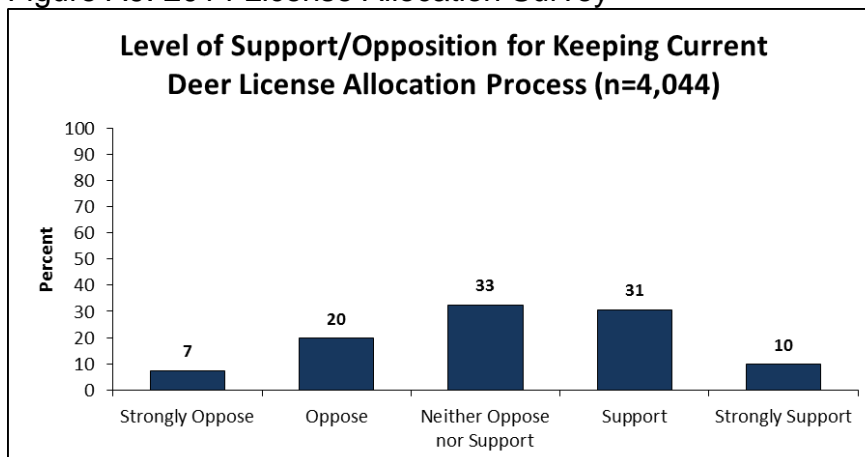


Figure A10. Number of buck licenses held per hunter.

	2011	2013	2016
Licenses held	# Hunters	# Hunters	# Hunters
1	44,755	42,245	41,378
2	10,907	10,469	10,747
3	2,863	2,347	2,706
4	804	720	713
5	208	146	134
6	43	27	19
7	7	6	9
8	5	3	1
9	3	4	1
10	2	1	0

Figure A11. 2016 resident buck license applicant count by number of seasons applied for – includes archery season.

Seasons	Applicants
1	39593
2	15078
3	6196
4	2606
5	973
6	348
7	130
8	15
Total	64939

Special Buck Allocations – Public Suggestions

- Special Buck license allocations should be based on 1% of all buck licenses
- Increase Special Buck license numbers for West River deer season for both residents and nonresidents to 1,000

Figure A12.

Season	Year	Resident Licenses			Nonresident Licenses		
		Licenses Available	1 st Draw Applications	Unsuccessful	Licenses Available	1 st Draw Applicants	Unsuccessful Applicants
West River	2009	500	491	0	500	717	217
	2010	500	499	0	500	737	237
	2011	500	499	0	500	808	308
	2012	500	627	127	500	884	384
	2013	500	689	189	500	848	348
	2014	500	567	67	500	778	278
	2015	500	713	213	500	882	382
	2016	500	773	273	500	881	381
	2017	500	781	281	500	902	402
East River	2009	400	724	324	Not Available		
	2010	500	731	231			
	2011	500	757	257			
	2012	500	918	418			
	2013	687	891	204			
	2014	656	728	72			
	2015	556	951	395			
	2016	556	1,010	454			
	2017	502	993	491			

Miscellaneous Season and License Structure - Public Suggestions

- Make first and second drawing available only to landowners and people living in the county for which they are applying
- Adjust application deadlines so they do not overlap to allow persons to know whether they were successful drawing one and then not putting in for others
- Set a license quota for non-rifle licenses and no restrictions on what weapon used for antlerless tags but retain specific seasons with dates
- Separate drawings for Limited Access Units from the West River and East River Deer season drawings
- Several stakeholder members recommended to limit the number of applications/licenses for the 3rd draw to 2 instead of 5

Section B. SEASON STRUCTURE

General Comments on Season Structures

Public Suggestions

- Suggestion of a season structure to use weapon of choice
- Only allow shotguns with slugs for East River deer season – no rifles
- Add WRD-60A (Tripp County) to WRD-30A and WRD-50A
- Combine East River and West River deer seasons into one season

Archery Season

Current Status

- Archery deer licenses are unlimited for both residents and nonresidents.
- Hunters may obtain a Statewide any deer license, or a West River and East River any deer license, and one statewide antlerless license.

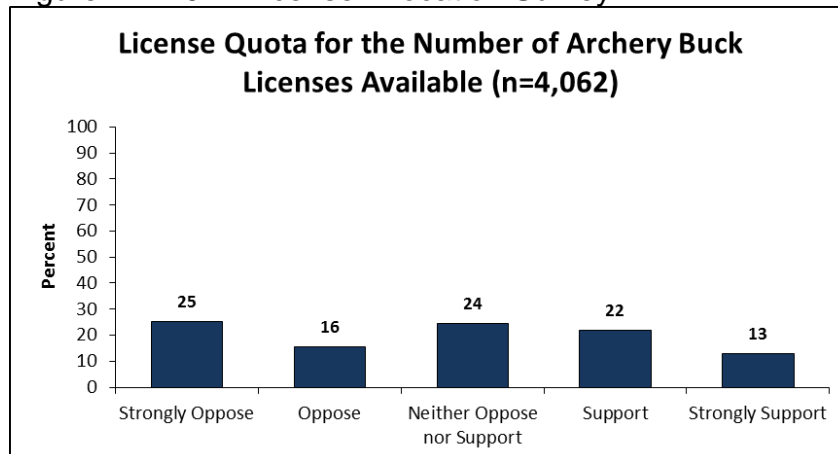
Public Suggestions

- Resident archery any deer licenses limited to 1 statewide license per year with no quota = remove the option of acquiring both an East River and West River any deer archery license per year
- Leave the current structure = 1 statewide or 1 East River and 1 West River any deer license

2016 Archery deer season: 2,179 residents and 42 nonresident hunters held both a west river and east river any deer license.

- Limit archery licenses at the unit level for better deer management
- Limit the number of archery licenses for both residents and nonresidents

Figure B1. 2014 License Allocation Survey



- Make archery licenses a draw with a cap and not valid on large public lands like Black Hills, grasslands, etc.
- Not all public land overrun by archery hunters so don't restrict archery licenses
- Close archery season during any rifle season
- Month of November
- Limited Access Units will be made for large parcels of public lands including Black Hills, Custer National Forests, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Ft. Pierre National Grasslands, and Grand River National Grasslands and existing Limited Access Units and will have a quota for archery licenses

Muzzleloader Considerations

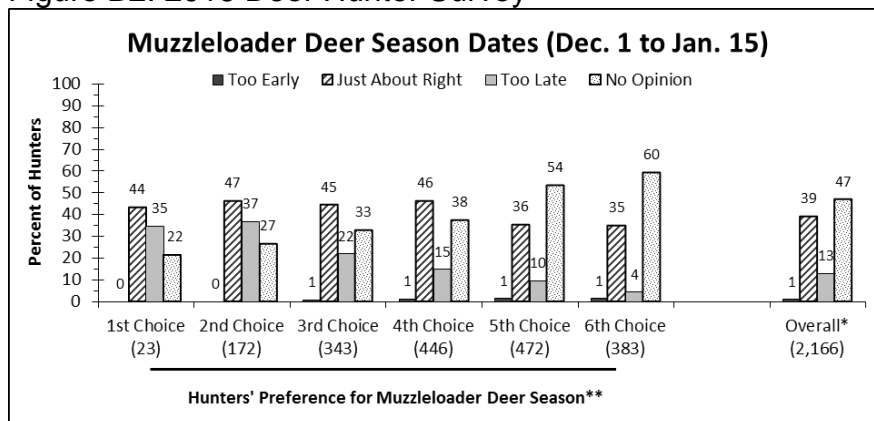
Current Status

- During the Muzzleloader restricted seasons no telescopic sights may be used.
- If used as the firearm during season like East River or West River, magnification is allowed.
- 1,000 any deer licenses available, unlimited antlerless licenses
- A person is limited to 2 muzzleloader licenses, and only one can be an antlerless whitetail deer license

Public Suggestions

- Like it a late season primitive season and recommend to remove 1 power scopes
- Move completely or allow some portion of the season prior to rifle season
- Move season between archery opener and rifle season
- Allocate buck licenses by county/unit

Figure B2. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey



Season Dates

Current Status

- The primary portions of both East River and West River seasons are 16 consecutive days with the West River season beginning 12 days prior to Thanksgiving and the East River season beginning the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving.
- For the East River Deer season, the latest portion of the season includes that portion beginning the Saturday after Christmas for 9 consecutive days. These 9 days are not valid during the West River deer season.
- Archery, youth, and muzzleloader antlerless tags are valid until January 15.
- Black Hills season runs the month of November.

Public Suggestions

Firearms – Public Suggestions

- End hunting seasons on December 31
- Go back to a 9-day hunting season for East River deer season and make it post rut
- Move rifle season two weeks later and begin after the rut
- Do away with the late season antlerless dates
- East River, West River, and Black Hills should start on the same date
- Improve hunt experience by creating split dates for all units in West River and East River seasons

Figure B3. 2010 East/West River Deer Hunter Survey. East/West River deer hunters' opinion of the length of the regular East/West River deer season (is 16 days for most hunting units).

Preference (length of regular East/West River rifle deer season)	Number	Percent
Too Short	905	32.1%
Just Right	1,623	57.6%
Too Long	145	5.1%
No Opinion	145	5.1%
Total	2,818	100%

Figure B4. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey: In your opinion, were the following 2015 season lengths too short, too long, or just about right?

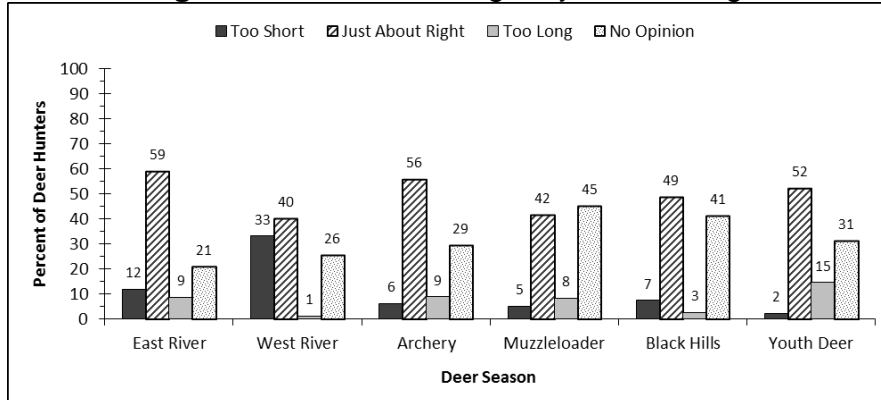


Figure B5. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey

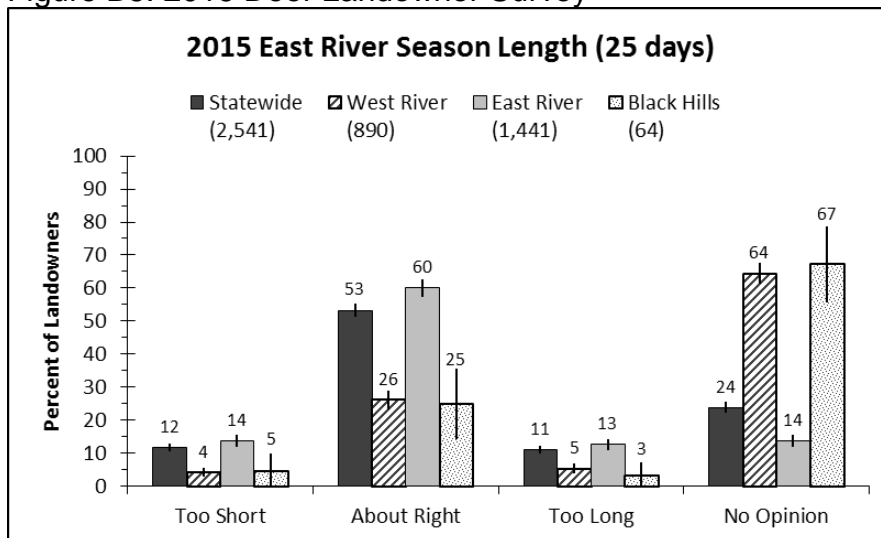


Figure B6. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey

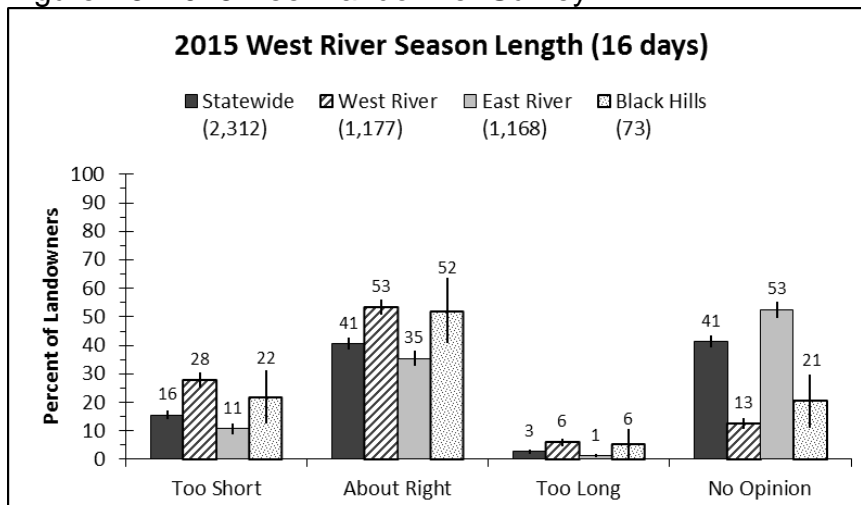


Figure B7. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey: In your opinion, were the following 2015 season dates too early, too late, or just about right?

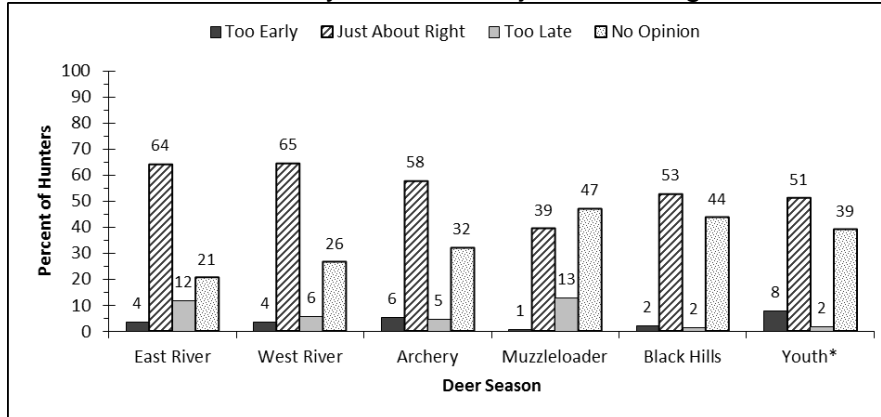


Figure B8. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey

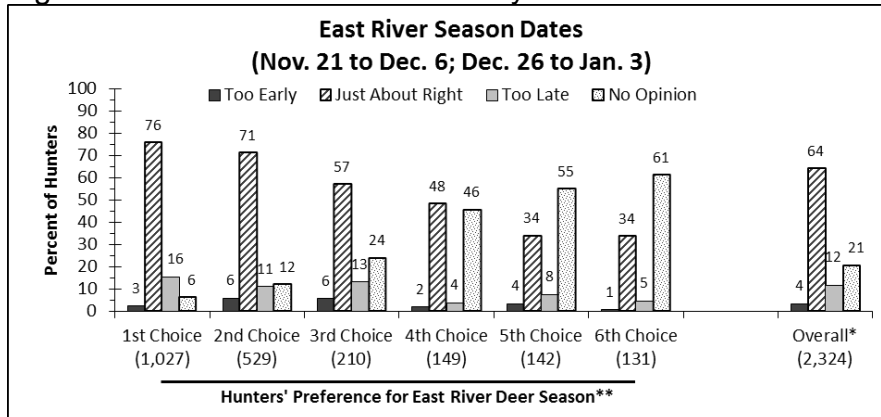


Figure B9. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey

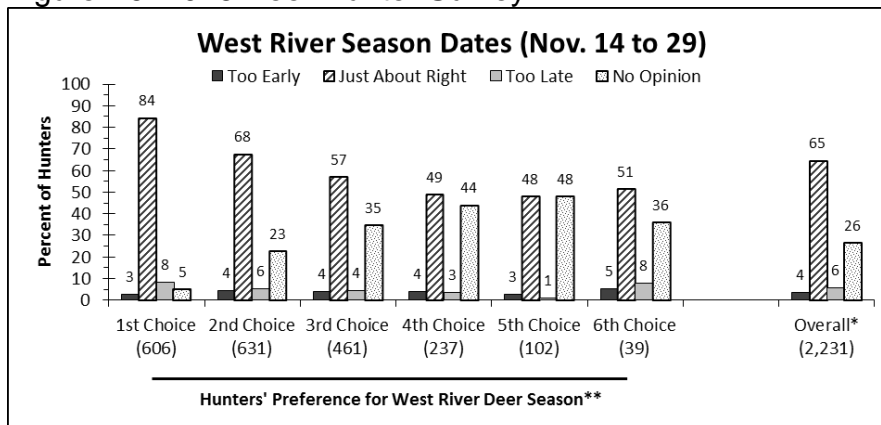


Figure B10. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey

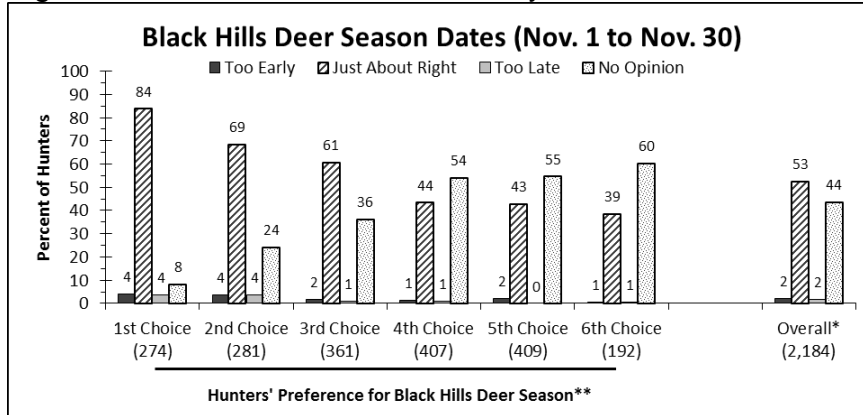


Figure B11. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey

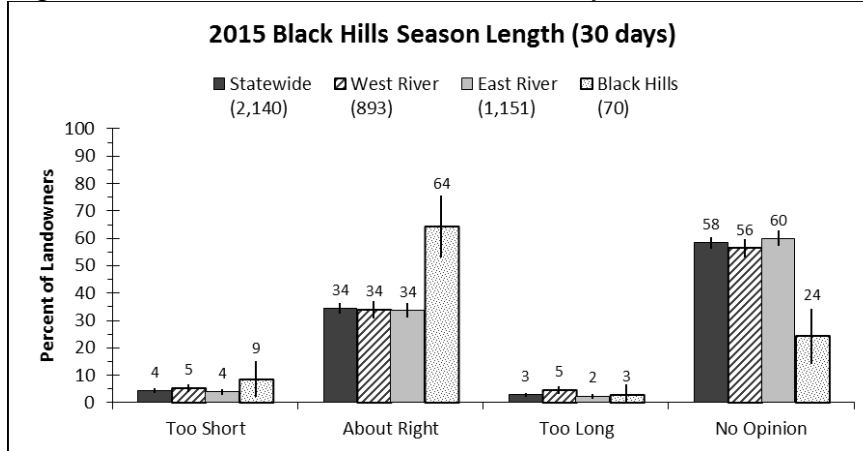
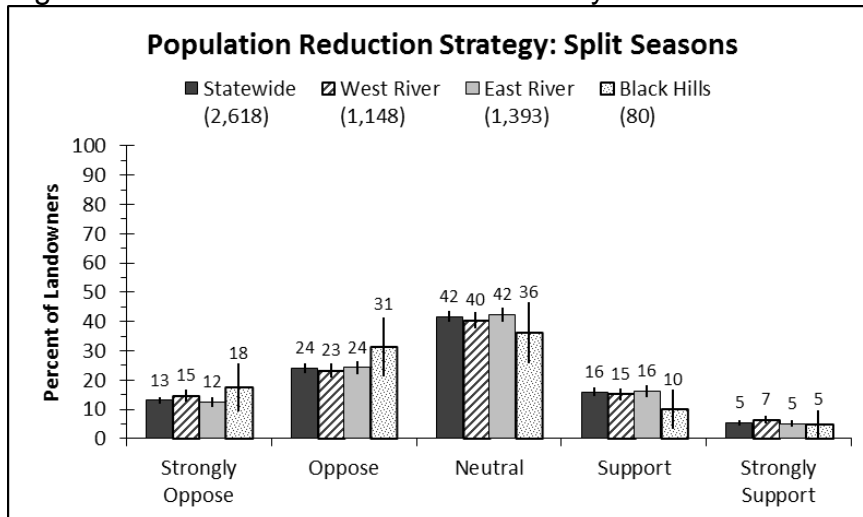


Figure B12. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey



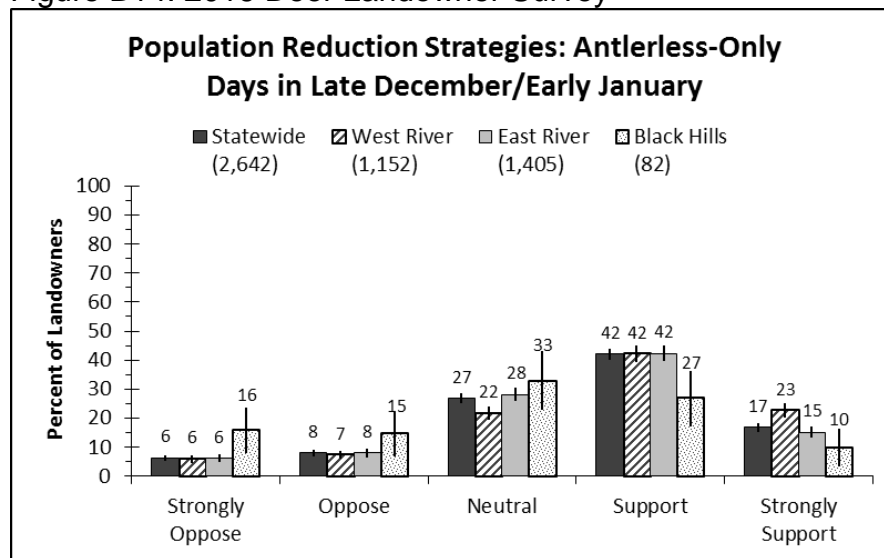
Late Season Antlerless Licenses – Public Suggestions

- Reinstate the late season dates for antlerless licenses for West River deer season

Figure B13. 2010 East/West River Deer Hunter Survey. East/West River deer hunters' preferred action towards the extended antlerless deer season (starts the Saturday after Christmas and runs for 9 days).

Preference	Number	Percent
Eliminate the extended antlerless deer season	291	10.3%
Reduce the length of the extended antlerless deer season	63	2.2%
Keep the extended antlerless deer season the same length	1,000	35.5%
Increase the length of the extended antlerless deer season	1,053	37.4%
No Opinion	411	14.6%
Total	2,818	100%

Figure B14. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey



Archery Season Dates – Public Suggestions

- Start archery season on September 1

Figure B15. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey

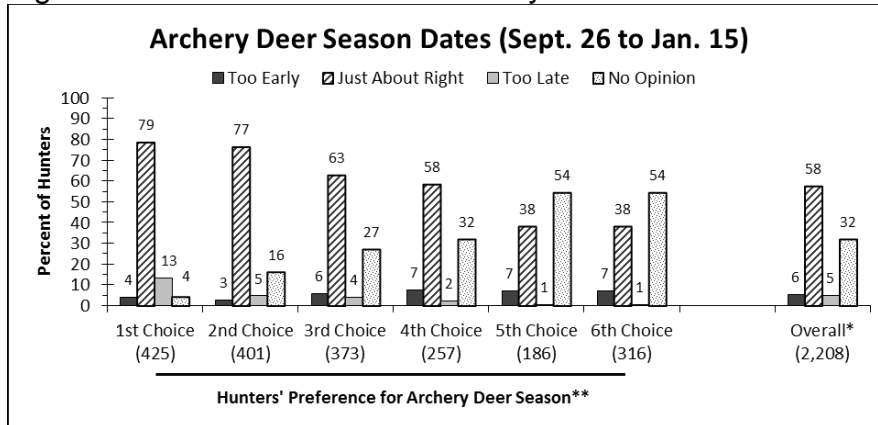
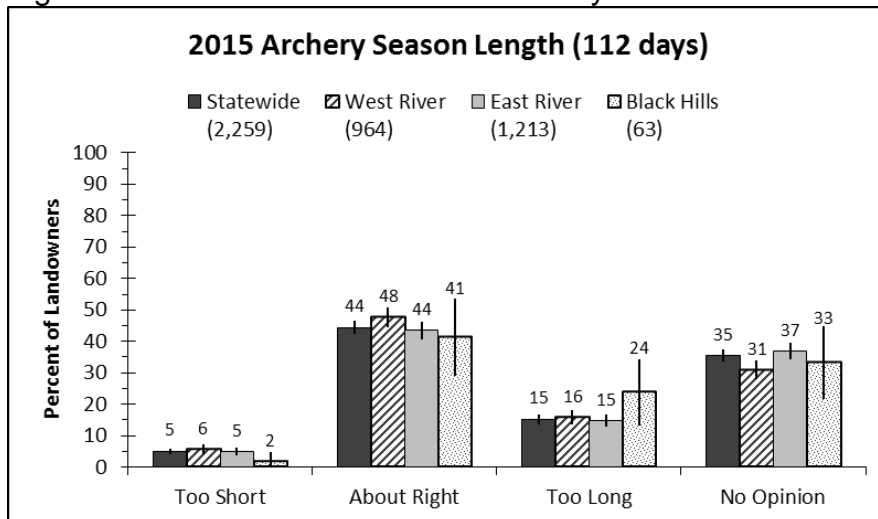


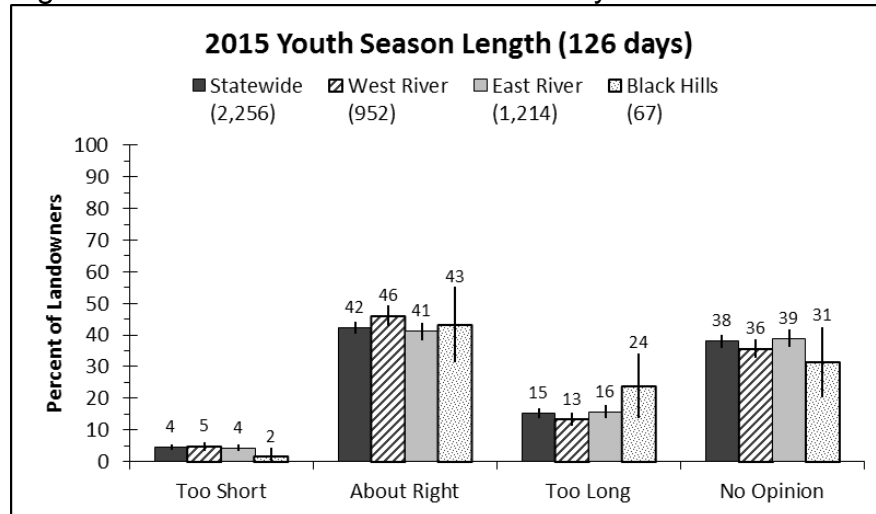
Figure B16. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey



Youth Season Dates – Public Suggestions

- Move youth season start date to early November
- Limit youth licenses and shorten the season

Figure B17. 2016 Deer Landowner Survey



Limited Access Units

Current Status

- Limited Access Units (LAU's) restrict the number of firearm licenses available; archery, muzzleloader and youth are currently unlimited and must obtain a free access permit while using their statewide licenses to hunt these designated LAU's.

Public Suggestions

- Several comments in support of LAU concept and approach
- Limited Access Units to also have limited number of licenses for Archery hunting
- Nonresident licenses on LAU's set at 8% also
- Additional archery restrictions on LAU like a concept of 1 hunter per 10 acres
- Make large public areas a draw – areas like Black Hills National Forest, Custer State Park, Custer National Forest, etc. and only allow those license holders to hunt; thus eliminating unlimited archery, youth, and muzzleloader

Figure B18. 2010 East/West River Deer Hunter Survey. East/West River deer hunters' attitude towards having a few Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota for hunters that like this type of deer hunting opportunity.

Attitude	Number	Percent
Strongly Dislike (-3)	112	4.0%
Moderately Dislike (-2)	46	1.7%
Slightly Dislike (-1)	92	5.3%
Neutral / No Opinion (0)	1,482	53.5%
Slightly Like (+1)	246	8.9%
Moderately Like (+2)	440	15.9%
Strongly Like (+3)	354	12.8%
Total	2,772	100%
Mean / 95% C.I.	0.60	0.55 – 0.65
SUMMARIZED RESULTS		
DISLIKE	250	9.0%
NEUTRAL/NO OPINION	1,482	53.5%
LIKE	1,040	37.5%

Figure B19 . 2010 East/West River Deer Hunter Survey. East/West River deer hunters' desire to see less or more Special Management Units for deer hunting available in South Dakota.

Attitude	Number	Percent
None	145	5.3%
Less	211	7.7%
Current Number	1,609	58.9%
A little More	608	22.3%
A Lot More	157	5.8%
Total	2,730	100%

Figure B20. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey: Currently there are 3 Limited Access Units in the state. How strongly do you support or oppose the creation of additional Limited Access Units?

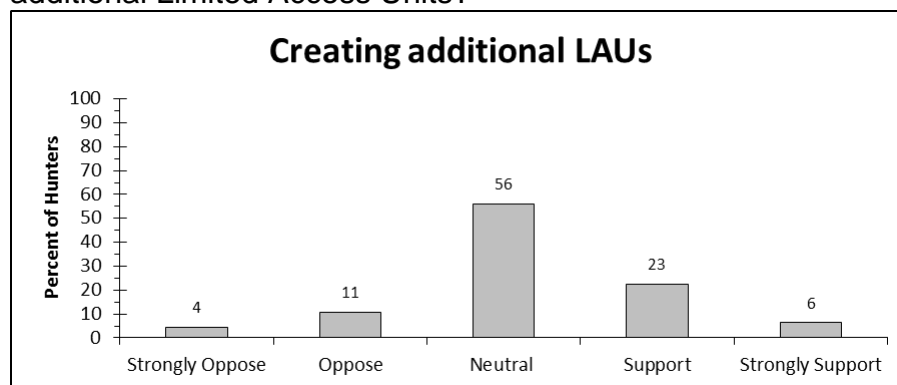
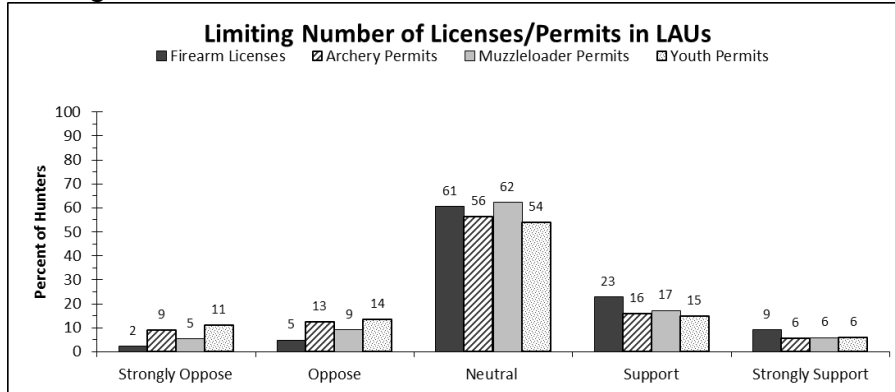


Figure B21. 2016 Deer Hunter Survey: How strongly do you support or oppose limiting the number of licenses in limited access units?



Action: In 2017, a new Limited Access Unit was added in Brule County.

Section C. NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

Nonresident Firearm Allocation

Current Status

- No licenses are allocated for nonresident deer hunters for the East River, Custer State Park, and Muzzleloader (any deer licenses) seasons; although they may be picked up by a nonresident as a leftover license.
- An 8% allocation is established based on the number of licenses allocated for residents for the West River, Black Hills, and Refuge seasons.
- Nonresident landowners are not eligible for landowner preference or Landowner-Own-Land licenses.

Public Suggestions

- Have the 8% nonresident allocation statewide (West River season, East River season but exclude East River Special Buck)
- Opposition to 8% allocation to nonresident East River as will promote commercialization
- Create a December Non-resident Muzzleloader West River Special Buck draw
- Reduce nonresident allocations to 5%
- Maximum of 1 nonresident buck license per year including both rifle and archery
- Establishment of nonresident private land licenses
- Establish a non-resident disabled veterans reduced fee program

Nonresident Archery Allocation

Current Status

- No limit on the number of nonresident archery deer licenses.

Public Suggestions

- Nonresident archery any deer licenses limited to one per year and capped at 8% established from previous year's resident archery any deer licenses issued.
- Nonresident commented to not restrict number as landowner only option for buck license
- Don't restrict nonresident archery licenses as provides opportunity for family and friends in eastern SD
- Multiple stakeholder members agreed that a cap on nonresident archery licenses should be in place
- Stakeholder commented opposition to limiting nonresidents at this time until deer numbers start to decline
- Establishment of nonresident private and public land archery tags
- Nonresident Archery hunters can only hunt for a two week period

Nonresident License Fees

Current Status

- Nonresident deer 1-tag license = \$280
- Nonresident 2-tag or 3-tag licenses (one any deer and one or two antlerless) = \$330
- Nonresident 1-tag antlerless license = \$74
- Nonresident 2-tag or 3-tag antlerless licenses = \$114

Public Suggestions

- Increase NR license fees
- Increase NR licenses fees by 25%

Section D. PREFERENCE POINTS

Preference Points

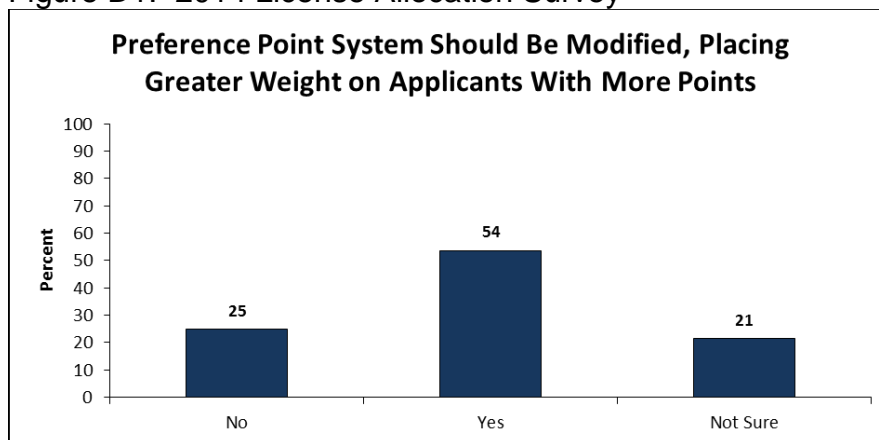
Current Status

- For the East River, West River, and Black Hills seasons, 50% of the licenses are set aside for landowners and the other 50% for nonlandowner preference.
- During season drawings, those with landowner preference are drawn first, then to those with 2+ years of preference, then to those with 1 preference point, and finally to those with no preference points.

Public Suggestions

- Make Limited Access Units contain a separate archery license allocation so the ability to purchase preference points should be made available.
- Make preference points more meaningful by allocating 75% to applicants with the most points on down. To give all applicants a chance, allocate 25% of licenses to a random drawing which includes all applicants unsuccessful in the preference drawing
- Less competitive drawing process
- Use a square of points model or divide available tag numbers into a larger proportion going to those with higher preference points – but retain a system in which everyone still has a chance to draw
- Preference points accrued for archery where there is a limited number of licenses like on Limited Access Unit's
- Do away with preference points completely and open the drawing each year to all applicants at a level field
- Make hunters choose one season and go to a straight preference system

Figure D1. 2014 License Allocation Survey



Action: Modified drawing structure after 2014 survey by making the first draw with those hunters who have 2+ preference points.

Landowner Preference

Current Status

- The entity holds title to more than 160 acres of private land located within the hunting unit, must be a resident, and is responsible for making day-to-day management decisions for agricultural purposes on the farm or ranch.
- 50% of licenses are set aside for landowner preference.

Public Suggestions

- Remove landowner preference for regular deer drawings – if a landowner wants to hunt anywhere within a unit they would then need to apply for regular draw.
- Landowner license tied to 40 or 80 acres of sustained habitat like grass, wetlands, woody cover, etc.
- Use only non-tilled acres to determine if person eligible for land-owner preference
- Reduce the percent allocation to landowners and require they hunt on their own land
- Offer no licenses with landowner preference
- 50% does not seem fair but the landowner on own land licenses should remain
- Make landowner preference licenses valid on private land only
- Increase the size of acreage to contend with the 50% allocation
- GFP survey from 2014 indicated that 60% of surveyed deer applicants indicated that 160 acres was just about right
- Reduce landowner preference allocation from 50% to 25% = West River limited impact and East River more of an impact
- Advised against taking away from landowner preference for fear of results and push back from landowners East River
- Apply landowner preference to muzzleloader licenses

Figure D2. 2014 License Allocation Survey

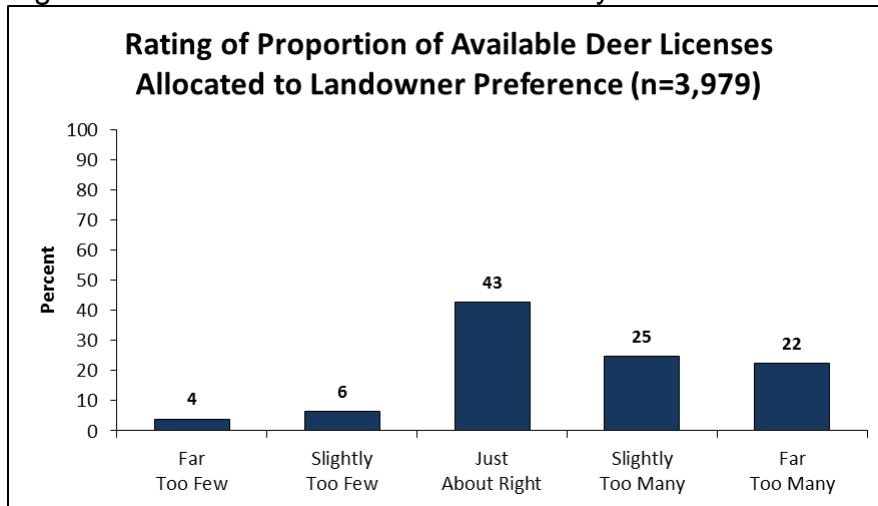
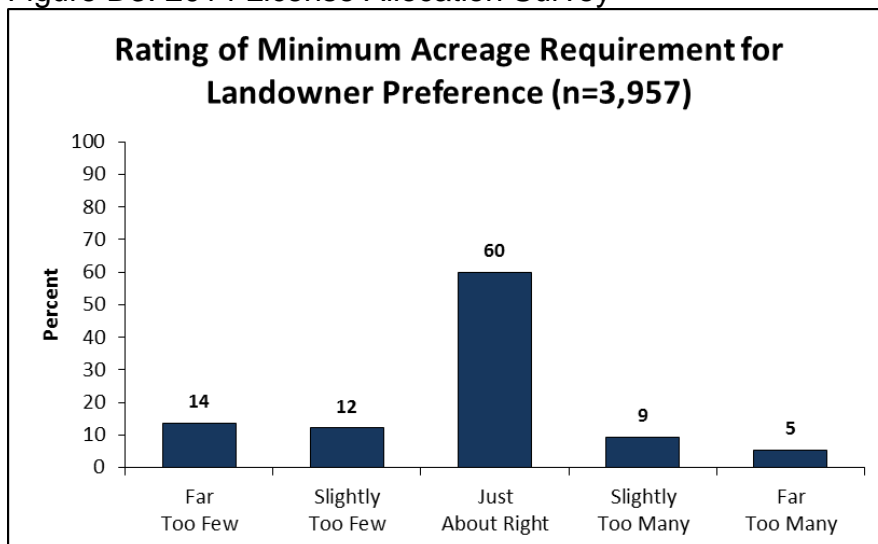


Figure D3. 2014 License Allocation Survey



Section E. GATHERING OF INFORMATION

Hunter ID#

Public Suggestions

- The state should provide each hunter a unique hunter ID# for easier tracking

Hunter Harvest & Public Opinion Surveys

Current Status

- There is no requirement to respond to a hunter harvest survey, but the department encourages hunters to respond.
- The number of surveys sent for each season and units is based on the numbers needed to obtain response rates and sample sizes which provide statistically valid harvest results for management purposes.
- For some units and seasons, surveys are sent to all license holders.

Public Suggestions

- Requirement to respond to hunter harvest survey; if do not respond then ineligible to apply in first draw following year
- Some hunters feel “surveyed out” and get too many
- Don’t want to punish folks if they forget especially if already receiving an adequate sample for analysis
- Establish a mandatory online nonresident harvest reporting requirement
- Remove the options of neutral or no opinion on public opinion surveys

Action: Based on conversations with stakeholders and staff, it has been determined to expand survey numbers for statewide seasons, in particular archery hunters to obtain more precise harvest information at a hunting unit level.

Section F. RECOMMENDED IDEAS IN WHICH COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY

Landowner Considerations

Current Status

- The transfer of licenses is currently not allowed by state law (41-6-71). Landowner preference licenses allow a person to hunt on both private and public land throughout the respective unit.
- Landowner-own-land licenses allow the person to hunt on their land only but in any unit where they own the land.

Public Suggestions

- Landowners should receive more deer licenses as they put up with deer year round and people don't appreciate all the things landowners go through
- Ability to transfer landowner tags to hunters to offset deer damage
- Landowner tags are an appreciation for tolerating deer and should not be transferable
- Landowner-own-land licenses should be made valid on all private land
- Landowner licenses should also be made valid on public land
- Allow nonresident landowners to obtain a buck license via Landowner on Own Land

Outfitters and Guides

Current Status

- No requirement for outfitters and guides to be licensed in South Dakota.
- To have this requirement in place, legislative action would have to occur.

Public Suggestions

- Require outfitters and/or guides to be licensed by the state.

Other

Public Suggestions

- Make it legal for resident and nonresident hunters over 55 and those with a youth deer license to use crossbow during archery season